MONTEREY NEWS

December 2009
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The Town

by Sue Protheroe

Highways and Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that water has been washing through a basin under a driveway on Eric Montgomery's property on Fairview Road, creating a drainage problem. The Board agreed to call Mr. Montgomery and to send a letter about the situation.

The Highway Department has started cutting brush on Sandisfield Road and New Marlborough Road. They will do more if they continue to get a break from the snow.

There was a logging violation on Eaton Road. The mountain was logged, and a driveway was put in without a permit.

In Beartown State Forest, just past Brace Road, about half a million board feet of lumber were removed, leaving a mess and damaging a driveway. Since this is state forest property, the state will be notified.

Forbes will put mousetraps in the Building Inspector's office to control mice; some Select Board members objected to using poison.

New Marlborough is looking for Monterey's support in getting Representative Olver's help in reopening Hatchery Road (continuation of River Road in Monterey). The Board will write a letter of support.

Monterey veterans gathered on church steps during Veterans Day observance. Front row (l-r): Ed Stencel (Korea), Morton Sternberg (WW II), Tom Haugh (Korea). Middle (l-r): Alf Pederson (WW II), Steve Pullen (Vietnam), Jules Dahlman (Korea), Dean Amidon (WW II), Dick Tryon (WW II), Osborne Dugan (WW II). Back row (l-r): Eugene Bounous (WW II), George Emmons (WW II), Martin Cherneff (Korea), Frank D'Amato (WW II), Ian Jenkins (Vietnam). (Photo by Bruce McAlister)

Michael Storch requested that a patch of Art School Road be oiled and stoned to match the rest of the road. He feels that the different surfaces are causing potholes that are costing the town money and time. The Board approved, and left this matter to the discretion of the Director of Operations.

Lisa Jasinski of National Grid attended a joint pole hearing for placement of power poles on Blue Hill Road. Director of Operations Maynard Forbes had already approved the project, and the abutters present at the hearing had no objections, so the Select Board approved the project and signed the appropriate paperwork. Ms. Jasinski agreed to address concerns the Board has over existing poles on Rockwell Road and Curtis Road.

Police Matters

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported on recent Monterey Police Department activities:

- Lockout, Gould Road
- Two-car motor vehicle accident, Main Road
- Assisted State Police and Egremont Police
- Operating under the influence on Halloween
- Town Hall vandalized on Halloween

The Police Department's yearly review will be postponed until Town Counsel is consulted regarding the proper procedure.

Master Plan

Alan Salamon of the Planning Board came in to discuss creating a master plan for the Town of Monterey. By statute, each town is mandated to have a master plan; however, of thirty-two towns in Berkshire County, eighteen do not have master plans, and four plans are too old. Monterey did produce a master plan in 1975 and a community development study in 2003. A study of open spaces and land use was done in 2002.

The Planning Board feels that it is not advisable to consider a master plan at this time (estimates have placed the cost at around thirty thousand dollars). A lot of things are not applicable to Monterey, and the advantages seem to be few. Salamon said he would be happy to contact Berkshire Regional Planning to see if they could provide any assistance with a master plan for Monterey.

However, the Planning Board does feel that revisiting all the town bylaws would be a good idea (the common driveway bylaw was addressed last year).

Building Matters

Building Commissioner Donald Torrico and the Select Board reviewed the following items:

The yearly performance review was positive. The goals for the upcoming year are to improve the lower level of Town Hall and to review the department inspectors. He will also continue his education—45 hours per year—and recommend an amendment to the current town sign bylaws to coordinate with building code regulations.

Torrico suggested that it would help if someone made a study of the lower level of Town Hall (water is coming into the basement) as well as studying options for air exchange improvements to the entire building.

The house on the Levkoff property has been boarded up by the Fire Department, which used it for training early this year.

Scott Jenssen asked if Monterey would ever be able to fill out and submit building permits online. Torrico said that a program for the purpose is being researched.

Wilson-McLaughlin House

Joe Baker of the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee came to the Select

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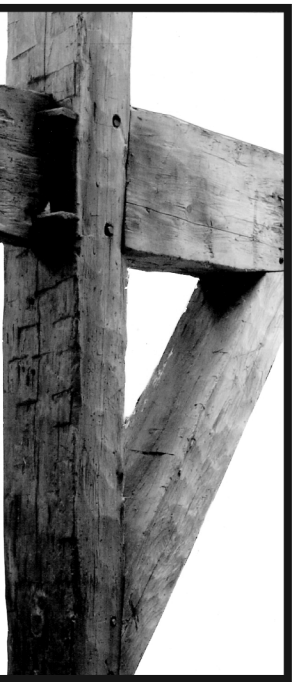
Eric Pedersen Construction



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Board with questions on the competitive bidding process. It was agreed that because the committee doesn't have the money for the entire project and the town is not going to spend any money, any work will have to be done in small increments and will not require competitive bidding.

Baker asked about creating a community garden on the grounds, and received the blessing of the Select Board to go ahead with the project.

Director of Operations Forbes will have to request $10,000 at Town Meeting for a new driveway on the property, as he doesn't have the money in his budget.

Baker asked if the Edith Wilson paintings currently being stored in Lew Scheffey's barn could be stored anywhere else in town. Edith's will stipulated that the paintings remain with the town. A mini storage unit or the second floor of the school was discussed, and Joe agreed to discuss it with Maynard Forbes.

Joe said the amended lease was being reviewed. Also, he would be glad if more people wanted to serve on the Wilson-McLaughlin House Committee.

Financial Matters

Michael Storch of the Finance Committee said that three or four members of the Finance Committee had an issue with the recent Corashire Cemetery expansion project on Blue Hill Road Road, which resulted in a large overrun. They felt the project should have gone out to bid since it was over a certain dollar amount, and worried that the town could get into trouble with the Attorney General's office for not following the proper procedure.

Storch said he will be resigning from the Finance Committee after the 2011 budget process is completed and that he will inform the Republican and Democratic Committees now so that they can place the open seat on the ballot for the May town election.

The Board has received seven or eight applications for the position of Town Accountant. The job description was amended and approved.

Jon Greene

The elegant new bridge over Rawson Brook on Gould Farm's Diane's Trail

This and That

Monica Webb, one of Monterey's representatives on the Southern Berkshire Technology Committee, informed the Select Board that the paperwork for National Grid to receive grant money to provide high speed Internet access in Monterey needed to be in within the week. Town Clerk Linda Thorpe came in to sign an access form, and the Board signed the proper forms and requested that Webb hand deliver them to National Grid.

Stanley Ross asked to be appointed as alternate on the Board of Appeals to fill the

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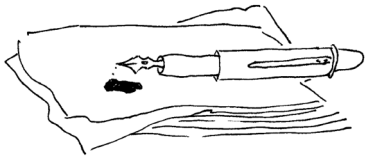
vacancy created when Kathleen Wasiuk resigned. Ross said he will not run for the Board of Assessors in May.

Town Counsel has determined that holding employee reviews in executive session is illegal unless the reviews concern disciplinary action or termination. The Select Board is concerned that character and reputation are discussed during reviews, and therefore they should be as private as the employees' personnel files are. Town Counsel was asked to revisit this matter.

The Select Board discussed the proposal for a new charter school and having a meeting to consider the possibilities.

The Monterey Cultural Council is holding its first ever Open Studio Tour on Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. As of November 19, eight exhibitors had signed up to be in the church basement and eleven to have open studios.



When Jack Frost Bites

Winter is on our doorstep, and that means cold weather and wind chill. There are two kinds of cold weather emergencies worth discussing: frostbite and hypothermia.

Frostbite occurs when the skin actually freezes. A frostbitten patch of skin will have a white, waxy appearance as opposed to the usual flushed, rosy appearance typically seen on a cold day. The treatment for frostbite is simple and is usually not really an emergency: cover the frostbitten area and get out of the cold (go indoors and warm up). Never rub the frozen area and do not rub snow on it, EVER!

Hypothermia occurs whenever the body's temperature drops below the normal 98.6° F and is unable to warm itself. Situations that could lead to hypothermia include falling through the ice into the cold water and being outdoors too long during cold weather without proper clothing. Often however, the circumstances are far more subtle; it "sneaks up" on you if you are not paying attention. A common hypothermia tragedy is the death of an elderly person who was unable to properly heat his or her home. The symptoms of hypothermia are exposure to cold conditions followed by uncontrolled shivering, slurred speech, "drunken behavior," and lethargy. Hypothermia is a true medical emergency.

The best treatment of these emergencies is PREVENTION. When you go out in your car always take proper clothing in case your vehicle breaks down and you have to walk. Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be home when you go out. If you go out walking, always take a warm hat, scarf, and mittens. In any case of frostbite or hypothermia, the person must be moved out of the cold and warmed up slowly. If the person is not behaving normally, get immediate medical attention: dial 911. Finally, check on your elderly friends and neighbors, especially during cold weather.

— Del Martin Captain, EMT
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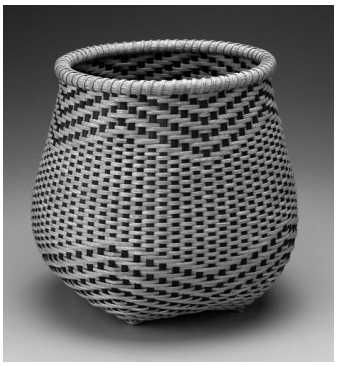

Basket, Wendy Jensen

Sample of works to be seen on December 5th Open Studio Tour.

Open Studio Artists & Artisans Tour Dec 5

On Saturday, December 5, the Monterey Cultural Council is sponsoring a free Open Studio Artists and Artisans tour featuring local artists and craftspeople. Look at exhibits in the Monterey Meetinghouse basement while munching Monterey General Store donuts and cider; then pick up a map and motor to the various open studios, all within the town borders. Wear sturdy shoes; many of the studios are in beautiful settings on unpaved roads with short hikes to the art.

Artists who are not inclined to show off their workspaces but still want to show their work will be exhibiting, selling, schmoozing (and eating donuts) in the Meetinghouse basement.

Participating artists:

Meetinghouse Basement: Pam Johnson, Joe Baker, Deborah Bernhardt, Joel Schick, Kit Patten, Arrie Setiawati, Edie Ross, Judy Hayes.

Studios: Bidwell House, Leonard Weber, Lew Scheffey, Ron Goldfinger, Julie Shapiro, Maureen & Michael Banner, Wendy Jensen, Lois Ryder, Ellen Grenadier, Nicky Hearon & Jason Brown (BMA Studios).

Food: Monterey Store, Harvest Barn at Gould Farm.

For more information, contact John Heffernan: jeh111@juno.com, 644-9235, or Wendy Jensen: wendygj@gmail.com, 528-4007.

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Holiday Cards and Ornaments Support CATA

Community Access to the Arts (CATA), a nonprofit organization that celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities, is offering holiday cards featuring images created in its visual arts programs. Holiday cards come in a boxed set of 20 for $25 and can be customized with a personal message. Card sales help fund CATA's programs for over 500 people with disabilities throughout Berkshire County.

This year, CATA is inviting local artists and personalities to create and donate an ornament made of mostly recycled materials that can be sold at its holiday sale on Saturday, December 12, from noon–7 p.m. in the studio gallery. To purchase online visit www.communityaccesstothearts.org or come to the CATA boutique at 40 Railroad Street, Great Barrington.

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The Last Stop of the Bookmobile

One of my earliest memories is of going to the Monterey Library and of Mr. Abercrombie recommending books for me to read. One of my favorite authors was Stephen Meader, who wrote historical fiction full of adventure for young people. The Monterey Library had several of his books, but there were so many more. Mr. Abercrombie promised me that when the bookmobile came he would be sure to choose any books by Stephen Meader so that I could read them. The wait for the bookmobile was often rewarded by not only books by Meader, but whole shelves of books by authors I had never heard of! I never felt I had read everything in the Monterey Library, but there were times I would wish for something new. The bookmobile would come periodically on Tuesday mornings when the library was open and I was stuck at school. Then one day the bookmobile came when I was out on summer vacation, and I remember being in awe as I was invited by Barbara Morey and Tom Mooney, who began with the bookmobile in the 1950s, to look around. I climbed the steps with reverence as I entered the sacred space. A whole library that came to Monterey for me, and for many others. By that time the Monterey stops had been cut down to just Gould Farm and the library, but in previous years it had stopped at schools, and even private residences. I remember when budget cuts and other issues meant that it could no longer stop at Gould Farm, but we could help out Loul and the others by sharing with them at the library.

The assault on the bookmobile had just begun. Over the years there were many changes—two staff positions, driver and librarian, consolidated to one, who did not even have to be a librarian. The bookmobile that had been based in Pittsfield at the Berkshire Athenaeum was moved to the Pioneer Valley. It came less often, but there were more books, including ones that had the PV designation that meant they would not have been available from Pittsfield. We needed to provide someone to carry the books to be returned out to the truck, and after they were checked in we had to carry the newly chosen ones into the library, where some people would literally be waiting for new materials. The decision by the bookmobile not to carry adult nonfiction hurt, as I especially loved to browse those titles.

There were also happier changes, and I can clearly remember the first day the bookmobile came to town with videotapes! Audio books also became an important part of the borrowed collection, as the Monterey Library could simply not afford to buy these new types of media.

Bookmobile visits were the perfect chance to catch up on what was happening at the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS) and around the area in other libraries. The bookmobile staff was always willing to come in and look at our library and offer suggestions and advice. Tom came in and took a picture of the candle that had melted when the thermostat malfunctioned so that it resembled an upside down "u" as he told stories about Mr. Abercrombie.

Of course over the years many of our patrons would come and drop in during the bookmobile stop and select things that interested them—Loul Mcintosh, Sherry Colodny, and Anita Worth spent many hours browsing and finding things like scientific books, Civil War anything for Jim, and large print books for an elderly mother. Barbara and Tom, and many of the drivers since, always remembered what types of books our patrons wanted, and for as long as they could read, Shel Fenn got his daily historical fiction book and Bea Fenn had mysteries by the armload.

Over the years many volunteers carried books, from an age when they could barely walk and hold one book to the other end of life, when it was too physically taxing, but that wondrous transfer of the written word was always accomplished with a smile. I often envied the drivers who had the job of bringing such happiness to every corner of this part of the world, and the stories of skidding in snowstorms and mechanical failures brought to mind the motto of the Post Office.

It has been years since the bookmobile has had a budget to buy new books. The Friends of Western Massachusetts Regional Library System was formed in 2003 to help out after some particularly devastating state cuts to the regional libraries budget, and the first dollars raised bought new materials. Some of you in Monterey participated in the "buy a book to remember a loved one or in place of

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a gift" program which raised thousands of dollars and made books available to children in our rural area. Last spring the budget was so tight it appeared that the March visit to Monterey was going to be the last ever, but the wizards at WMRLS waved their wands and filled the gas tank for another six months.

At this point in time, WMRLS, which runs the bookmobile program, is being funded at the level they last saw over ten years ago. The budget outlook is so bleak that WMRLS and the other five regions will in all likelihood be dissolved next July. As the governor and the legislature work on the budget over the next six months it will become more clear which library services funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will be cut, which ones will be kept at a reduced funding level, and which ones will be saved. Unfortunately, the bookmobile has become the first casualty. As of December 30, the last bookmobile in the state of Massachusetts will be parked one final time. The last visit to Monterey will be December 15 from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Please feel free to come by and carry a book in, or just stop to look at one of the last direct survivors of the original programs of FDR's Works Progress Administration. The first bookmobile in Massachusetts started in Pittsfield in the 1940s, and the last one will travel the roads of western Massachusetts almost seventy years later. One of the drivers has said that each last stop has been a strange mixture of a wake and a celebration.

Even with joining CWMARS, libraries such as ours will not have big enough budgets to provide browsing collections of audio books and large print titles. WMRLS has committed to lending deposit collections to us for as long as they exist, which may only be another six months. Those books will be delivered by WMRLS vans that come to Monterey twice a week. The Friends of WMRLS, with $13,000 in privately raised money, recently bought a used van and outfitted it for delivery to replace one of the current vans, which had over three quarter of a million miles. Delivery without WMRLS is bound to change, but it appears that because even the larger libraries have come to depend on interlibrary loans, some sort of delivery service will continue.

I have no idea what my children will remember as magical about their childhood, but I hope they will have something that does for them what the memories of the bookmobile do for me.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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The Story behind "Taps"

This description of the initiation of "Taps" was sent to me by a friend as an email last August. I read it just prior to the beautiful rendition of "TAPS" played by Gabriella Makuc at our Veterans remembrance service held on Veterans Day in November.

Do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

A popular version of the story has it that it all began in 1862, during the Civil War, when Union Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The captain lit a lantern, caught his breath, and suddenly went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. However, out of respect for the father they did say they could give him one musician. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted. The haunting melody we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals was born.

Here are the words:

Day is done.
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills.
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.

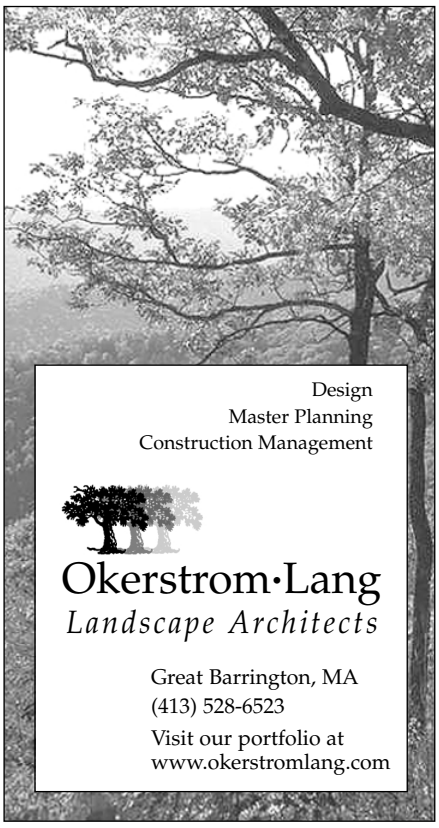
Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky
Gleaming bright.
From afar
Drawing nigh
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise
For our days
Neath the sun
Neath the stars
Neath the sky.
As we go
This we know:
God is nigh.

I too have felt chills while listening to "Taps," but I have never seen all the words until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either, so I thought I'd pass it along.

I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before. Remember those lost and harmed while serving their country.

— Dean Amidon



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Dec 16th Community Dinner Features Land Trust

The well-attended November Community Potluck Dinner featuring Dr. Ruth Engo from Cameroon, Africa, was very informative about the successful use of the bed nets that folks in Monterey sponsored last year for Ngalla, Cameroon, Monterey's sister city. This year the focus will be on clean water devices; gift cards to support the project will be available for purchase at the General Store. It was great to see Ruth again, and many thanks to her for the presentation.

At the December 16th Community Potluck, representatives from the Monterey Preservation Land Trust will talk about their efforts to preserve land in Monterey. Mark Furth and Bettina Schwartz, who are purchasing the Ellen Pearson property on Chestnut Hill and hope to have a small farming operation there, will discuss their plans; with the help of the Land Trust most of the 80 acres are being placed in a conservation restriction.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on December 16 at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce

Bidwell House Appoints New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the Bidwell House Museum have appointed Barbara Palmer to serve as the new Executive Director of their colonial history museum. The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage landmark that uses the history of its land, house, and collections to reimagine, re-create, restore and research colonial and early American life in Western Massachusetts.

According to Board President Kathryn Roberts, "The Bidwell House Museum is a hidden jewel among the cultural highlights of the Berkshires. Our beautifully restored 1750s farmhouse is celebrating twenty years as a museum in 2010. We have been blessed to have Martha Dailey as our director for the past five years. Martha's fine leadership and scholarship have transformed our museum. We wish her well as she opens the new Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum in Adams soon. We are all very pleased to have Barbara Palmer join us. Her nonprofit management experience, arts background, ties to the area, and tremendous enthusiasm for our museum will be a great asset."

Palmer and her family moved to Tyringham full time in 2008 from Mountain Lakes, New Jersey. Her career took her from art and travel book publishing and graduate work in art and architectural history to nonprofit and grants management as a project director for an environmental organization in New Jersey. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Her husband's family has ties to Tyringham and the Berkshires dating back to the 1890s.

"I am thrilled to be leading this wonderful museum. I plan to use my experience to build on the terrific work of Martha Dailey and the very dedicated staff and Board of Directors. I would love to see more Berkshire residents join us, and I plan to expand our educational programs. What better place for Berkshire children to learn about colonial times than in their own county! We have a fully equipped and historically furnished house, including the 1750s keeping room (kitchen), parlors, and bedrooms. The 192-acre property includes over three miles of stone walls, nature trails, woodlands, sugarbush, an old maple syrup boiling structure, and an old mill stream, and we are located on an unpaved country lane, a truly authentic experience," says Palmer.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road in Monterey and is open to the public from Memorial Day to Columbus Day or by special appointment.

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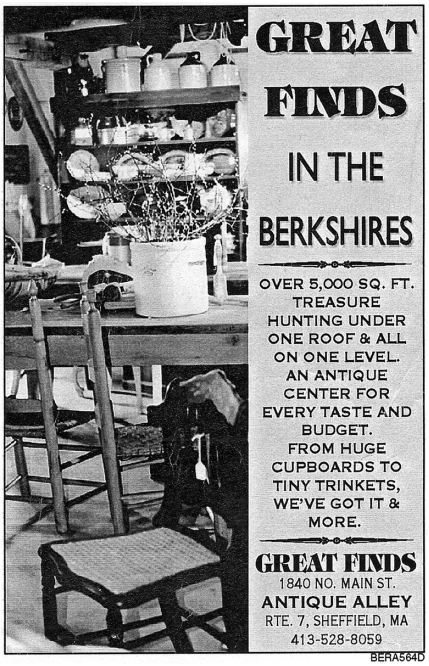
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Community Christmas Eve

This month we at the Monterey Church look forward to our third Annual Community Christmas Eve Service. This isn't to say gathering on Christmas Eve is something the church has only done now for two years, but to say that the way we are performing the lessons and carols is still new. As many of you may already know, it features members of the community telling the story while playing it out with a nativity set given in memory of Mary Ward. The first year we did this, town officials told us the story. Last year we heard from presidents of the many nonprofit boards and councils in town. This year, we'll hear from those who feed us—farmers and bakers of many sorts. Glynis Oliver will come representing Rawson Brook Farm and the best goat cheese in the world. Steve Pullen will come from Greenhaven Farm, known for his stellar pies. Beth Reiter will be here from Gould Farm as one of the chief bakers at the Harvest Barn. Roger Tryon will come on behalf of Lowland Farm's maple syrup. With any luck (or a Christmas miracle?) Michele Miller of Bola Granola will have her family come to her for the holiday. And Emily Chin, our regular pianist, will accompany the carols on our recently refurbished organ.

This is a really good way to celebrate Christmas, whether you share in the faith or not. One of the challenges of being the only year-round religious community in a town such as this is living out the faith in a radically welcoming God, but it's a challenge we who are members of the church hope ever to rise to. Come on our terms, come on your terms: whatever way you might come, please just come. We're the Monterey United Church of Christ, and every word in our name is of equal importance, which is to say that if any of these name some aspect of you, you're welcome here.

The service will be at 7 p.m. on December 24 and will last about 45 minutes.

— Elizabeth Goodman

Christmas Extravaganza at Sandisfield Arts Center

On Saturday, December 5, at 7 p.m., the Sandisfield Arts Center will host its annual Christmas Extravaganza. Now in its seventh year, the family variety show features a wide range of performers, from toddlers in tutus dancing to the Nutcracker Suite to venerable authors and actors lending their skills to present original material or classics with class.

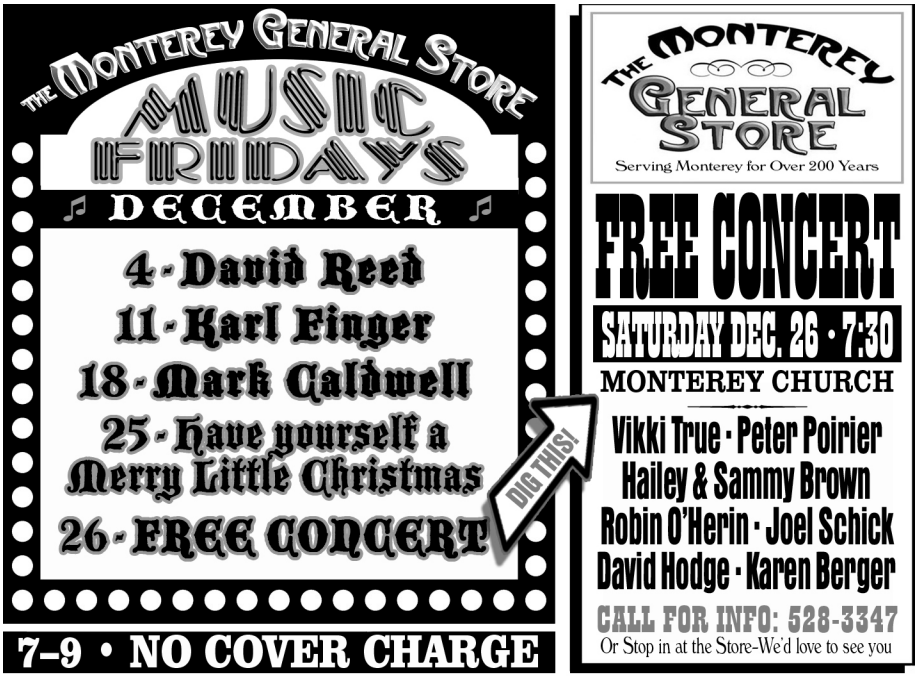
This year, Dawn Lane & Company will perform "Kings Reign: Queens Rule," a music visualization based on Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" in which dancers perform original sign language for each lyric of this choral work. Choreographer Dawn Lane will be joined by dancers Lorimer Burns and Jane Goodrich in this humorous piece that includes audience participation.

Elizabeth Petty, music teacher at Farmington River Elementary School in Otis, will conduct a small choir of her students and also accompany the audience in Christmas caroling. Other performers include singer/songwriter Jeffrey Folmer, who doubles as Executive Director of Ventfort Hall, and author Val Colman reading an original short story called "Christmas in Louisiana."

Tickets for this event are $5 for adults, children free. The Sandisfield Arts Center is located on Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield. For directions and more information, visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org or call 258-4100.

New Email Address for *Monterey News*

Please note the new email address for the *News*: montereynews9@gmail.com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Easy Holiday Shopping

Building upon last year's successful "gift card" drive we are at it again! Last December our village of Monterey raised the money needed to supply our sister town, Ngalla, Cameroon, with one hundred insecticide treated bed nets. This year we are working on clean drinking water for our African village. So for all of those folks on your shopping list who already have everything, you can now honor them with "the gift of life for another" while feeling really good about yourself in the process.

Your purchase of these colorful and attractive gift cards (plus envelopes) buys shares in portable drinking water stations. This year's cards, created for us by Joe Baker, tell the story of the Monterey Meets Ngalla—People To People Project, as well as how these locally crafted drinking stations, fashioned from mostly recycled materials, reduce the risk of opportunistic diseases caused by polluted water.

A single gift card/envelope is priced at $5. For just $20 you will be purchasing five cards as give-aways. The more give-aways there are . . . the more people will know about the project, and how they might help with this urgent need for clean water.

Please look for the cards at the front of the Monterey General Store or order by phone by calling both Kathy Frome, 413-528-2516, and Eileen Lawlor, 413-528-7916. One of us will return your call and take your order immediately.

This is truly a win-win for us all! So shop, shop, shop Monterey, and have a very happy holiday and New Year.

— Eileen Lawlor
Monterey Meets Ngalla Committee

Monterey Personal Notes

Dinah Mielke, daughter of Deborah and Rick Mielke of Monterey, was initiated into Psi Chi, the nationally recognized honor society for students in psychology, at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts.

Readers are encouraged to send personal notes to the editor, montereynews9@gmail.com (note new email address) or P.O. Box 9, Monterey, or to leave them in the drop box at the Monterey General Store loading dock.

❊

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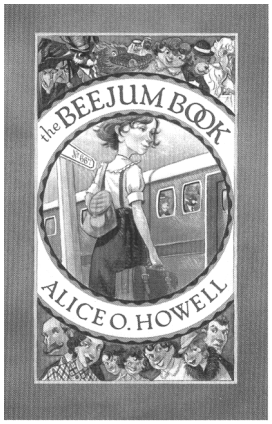
These wonderful books from Monterey's own Alice O. Howell make perfect Christmas gifts!



The Beejum Book will take its place with ***The Little Princess*** and ***Charlotte's Web*** as a perennial classic.

— Andrew Harvey,
author of ***The Direct Path***

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Ice Safety Tips

Skating, sledding, or even just walking on the frozen ponds and lakes is a great way to get out and enjoy the fresh air during winter. However, anyone participating in recreational activities on the ice must use common sense and follow these recommended safety tips. DON'T BECOME A VICTIM.

1. Never go onto the ice alone, and always keep a minimum of ten feet between individuals. A friend may be able to rescue you or go for help if you fall through the ice.

2. Always keep your pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice, do not attempt a rescue. Go for help.

3. Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow can insulate ice and keep it strong, but it also can insulate the ice and keep it from freezing hard. Snow can also hide cracks as well as weak and open ice.

4. Ice formed over flowing water (including springs under the surface) is generally weaker than ice over still water.

5. Ice seldom freezes or thaws at a uniform rate. It can be one foot thick in one spot and be only one inch thick ten feet away.

6. If a companion falls through the ice and you are unable to reach that person from the shore, throw something to him or her (a rope, tree branch, even jumper cables from the car, etc.). If this doesn't work, go or phone 911 for help. If you also become a victim then the outcome becomes very grim. Get medical assistance for the victim immediately.

7. If you fall in, try not to panic. Turn toward the direction you came from. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface, working forward by kicking your feet. Once the ice is solid enough to hold you, and you can pull yourself out, remain lying on the ice (do not stand; lying down spreads your weight across a wider area, lessening the weight on any one spot) and roll away from the hole. Crawl back the way you came, keeping your weight distributed, until you return to solid ice or ground.

8. As the season progresses plan accordingly and use caution, as the condition of older ice varies greatly and is subject to changing conditions.

9. How can you tell the ice is safe? There are no guarantees — always consider ice potentially dangerous. If the ice is two inches or less stay off. You must have a minimum of four inches for activities on foot.

— Robert "Buddy" Rodgers, Firefighter 1-2 , Monterey Fire Company

Monterey Community Center

Many of Monterey's residences have long and fascinating histories, reflecting the development of our town. The Wilson-McLaughlin house, designated for use as our Community Center, is full of history and decisions of former citizens.

It was Barnabus Bidwell (1796–1883) who began our story. In 1825 he first bought property at the Old Center, which was located near the present-day Bidwell House museum. The Second Meeting House Agreement of 1796 had moved the town center to the intersection of Beartown and Carrington-Battelle Roads. By 1827 the church membership had grown to 164 persons. In 1828 Barnabas became a member of that congregation. When a subscription was taken up in 1842 to fund a new church at the new (present) center of town, Barnabus pledged $25 for two voting shares. The South Tyringham Meeting House Society was established in 1846, and the church was in use by 1849.

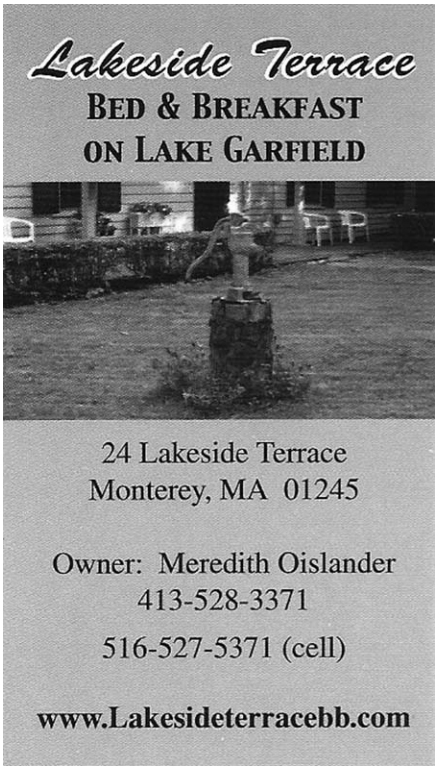
Barnabus was also looking southward and purchased two parcels in 1847 and the last 13 acres in 1873. When he sold the property in 1880 it was described as being "about 100 rods southeast of the Meeting House."

In l941 Margery McLaughlin purchased the "Barnabus Bidwell Place," and it was then given to the Monterey by longtime resident Edith Wilson in 1995. The structure is believed to have been constructed about 1825–30 and moved from the Old Center to its present location about 1850.

With such a vibrant history and potential uses for the structure and 28.6 acres Monterey is fortunate indeed.

This account benefited from data graciously supplied by Marie Bidwell Leuchs.

— Cynthia Weber



December Events at Bartholomew's Cobble

The holiday season is a great time to explore the gently rolling landscape and trails of Bartholomew's Cobble nature preserve. With the leaves off the trees you can see the interesting shapes of the twin cobbles (small hills) and their rocky cliffs and caves as you walk through a varied landscape of woods, fields, hilltop, and river. Bartholomew's Cobble trails are open daily from dawn to dusk and the Visitor Center will be open on the winter schedule of Tuesdays through Saturdays. Each Saturday, complimentary hot chocolate is available. New this year, the Trustees of Reservations will be offering snowshoes in children and adult sizes for most of the winter walks and programs, described below. Bartholomew's Cobble is located on Weatogue Road in Sheffield, off of Route 7A. For more information or to pre-register for a program, e-mail bcobble@ttor.org or call 413-229-8600. Learn more about Bartholomew's Cobble and fifteen additional Trustees of Reservations sites in the Berkshires at www.thetrustees.org.

Writing the Winter Landscape Series
Sunday, December 6, 1–3 p.m.
(continuing first Sundays all winter)

Join local author Pauline Clark and Trustees of Reservations educator Tammis Coffin for a winter walk, tuning into moment and place, tapping a creative response. FREE with admission. Please pre-register at tcoffin@ttor.org or 413-298-3239 ext. 3003.

The Joy of Winter at the Cobble
Sunday, December 13, 1–3 p.m.

Explore the joys of winter at Bartholomew's Cobble with the Trustees of Reservations. Meet at the nature center to enjoy a few upbeat songs and stories about "Winter at the Cobble." Then go outside for a half-mile discovery walk led by a guide. After, share refreshments and simple winter crafts. Snowshoes available in adult and kid sizes. Free with admission. Space limited. Please pre-register to 413-229-8600.

Solstice Sunset Hike & Campfire
Saturday, Dec. 19, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Join the Trustees of Reservations to welcome the longest night of the year with a 1.5-mile hike to one of the best sunset views in the Berkshires, followed by refreshments in the Visitor Center and a warming campfire. Snowshoes available in adult and kid sizes. Free with admission. Please pre-register to 413-229-8600.

Coda for Late Autumn

Bleak is the bush that stands out in the back,
her branches spreading to the East and West.
A few of them in winter wind may crack,
but normal storms will scarcely bend the rest.
Almost an eyesore, pictured on a slant;
with twisted tentacles, bereft of bloom.
And yet for me this chilled and unclad plant
has an austere presence that belies the gloom.
Gamely determined as she reaches out;
recharged by inner strength, she's kept in play.
Prepared to challenge snow and hail (or drought),
until at last bad weather creeps away.
A hardy settler, standing on the hill.
Without apology, she works her will.

— Ed Schur

Wisdom

What you would grasp
let go.
Only those seeds which fall
grow!

— A. O. Howell

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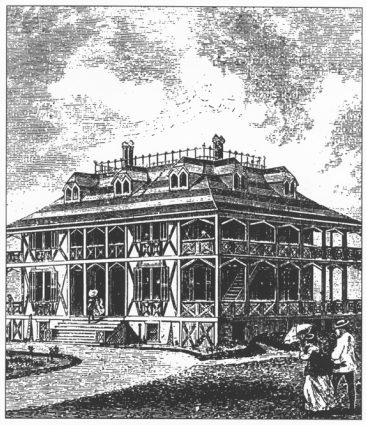

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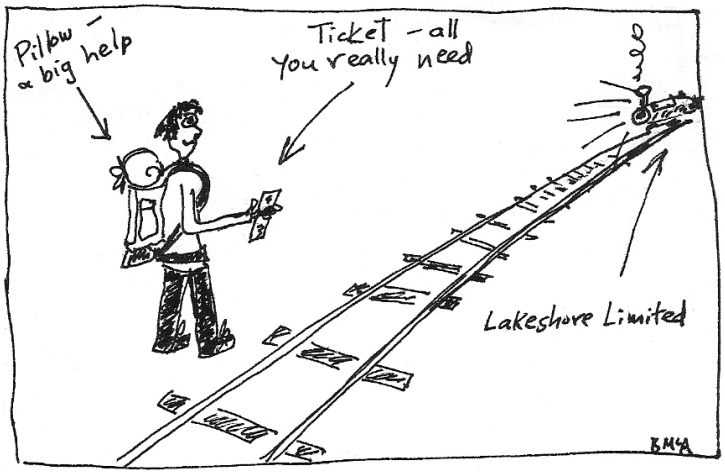
Train Connections

Riding the train long-distance provides a liberating structure for a trip. This doesn't come easy. You put it in place yourself by making a plan, one which involves so many factors it can be a true pain. Making a connection? Is there enough time for Amtrak to be its famously late self? How about that bus discount that requires 21-days' advance notice—is it worth all the scrambling when you don't quite know who can meet you and on what day?

In the end, though, you settle on one set of limits, a schedule. In my case, I order my tickets through the mail and continue to feel a little nervous until I have them in my hand. Then it's as if the trip is in motion already. I'll be there, I'll climb on, I'll be gone. There will be no further hemming and hawing.

Standing by the track in Pittsfield, I look at my fellow westbound passengers and wonder if they went through hoops planning their trips. I get friendly with a young man in a wool visor cap. On board he tells me he is 22, that he "took off hitchhiking" from his home in Pennsylvania, headed for California he thought, but the first ride went elsewhere so he did too. There is a romance about this guy. Seems he feels some of that call of the wild, the road, the rails. Tells me he spent time "chopping wood" for a farm couple in exchange for a place to stay, that they needed him and it worked out. He'll go back there. Right now he is going home for more belongings. I picture him with a double-bladed axe, his sleeves rolled up. Maybe it's really a chainsaw.

Woodchopper has been traveling light: one little backpack is all, and he



has that grey hat and a zipper sweatshirt. Not me. I planned with care my layers, my blanket and sleeping bag, my pillow from the bed at home. I know from previous coach-class nights on the train that this pillow can fill in the gaps that would otherwise leave you stiff in the morning. Maybe not so much, if you are 22.

I also have my reading and writing, for those hours after dark when you can't see America out the window. Woodchopper is like the other folks in my car. When darkness comes he slides his laptop out of his sack and watches movies. A woman from across the aisle joins him, with her own headphones, and they have a social time chuckling over the flickering film.

I wake with a start in a station, squint at my Indiglo Timex and jump up, stuffing blanket and pillow into the sack. Go tearing up the car, ask the conductor, "Is this Cleveland?"

"No, Erie, Pennsylvania," he says. "I won't let you sleep through your stop."

It is 3:30 a.m. in Cleveland and I travel the mile of empty boulevards from Amtrak to Greyhound and wind up nearly last in line for my bus. On board there is one seat left, or more like 2/3 of a seat. Fellah feigns sleep. He is too big and too grumpy. I perch on the edge with Greyhound seat-frame plastic starting a Charlie horse on my right hip. My seat mate, I'll call him Ham, won't budge, claiming to be "up against the wall as it is."

I stuff my jacket under my hip and we go along, sleeping through Ohio until a woman up front lets out some major screaming.

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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Fifty people shoot awake, the driver panics, and the bus starts swerving side-to-side as he puts on the brake. A passenger yells, "Turn on the lights!" and we see that there is nothing amiss after all. The collective adrenaline from the woman's nightmare and the careening bus takes awhile to pass out of our systems, though, and there is some of that relief-conversation you get after a close call.

Even Ham is jocular and treats me to a dumb bluff joke (like he wasn't just as freaked as the rest of us …). "Ha, ha. I thought someone had won the jackpot." But my own spirit of relief and forgiveness dishes him up a chuckle for his effort, his little gesture in my direction, and darn if he doesn't reward me with a precious two inches of my seat, which I slide into instantly, getting off the seat frame at last.

There were others besides Woodchopper and Ham. There was Flag with his triangle-folded Stars and Stripes in its fine wooden showcase. He never let it out of his grasp, telling me, "This is Dad. Vietnam vet, a good man." I watched Flag's luggage for him in the depot while he went off for a snack. He brought me a warm pretzel with spicy mustard dipping sauce, and we watched basketball together in Columbus.

There was Sassy, who sold bus tickets in Springfield, Ohio, at her thrift store. She was a tease and a flirt and kept us chipper in that run-down shopping mall when the bus was good and late. Back in Cleveland on the way home there was Classy, a woman in gold trim, black leather, fashion cowboy boots, and the only other person I saw who actually read a book while traveling. We were alone in the train depot there, and I slept on the floor while she read nearby. When I woke up for my train, she was gone.

Travel alone on public transport and you might meet some people. You can keep to yourself if you like, when you want, or you can open up a bit. There is a freedom in these relationships, as in the other aspects of the trip. You can be folks together, no need to meet again or get on each other's Christmas card lists (or Facebooks, Tweets, or Blogs). The structure of the bus or train car puts us together for a set little while, make of it what we like, what we can. And all the time, out that big window, there is the country we love, the country where we live.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Financial Seminar with Terry Webb

One year ago, financial markets around the world were in a state of crisis. Now there is a growing sense of hope and perhaps even optimism. Stocks have had a record-breaking rally since the lows in March 2009. This has been spurred by a steady improvement in economic indicators and surprise positive earnings by over 75 percent of S&P 500 companies in both the second and third quarters. Despite this, many economists and market commentators feel domestic and global markets have run too far too fast, and investors are confused! For an update and insights into what to expect next, please join us for a seminar with Terry Webb, Senior Vice President and Branch Director with RBC Wealth Management in Great Barrington, on Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the Monterey General Store.

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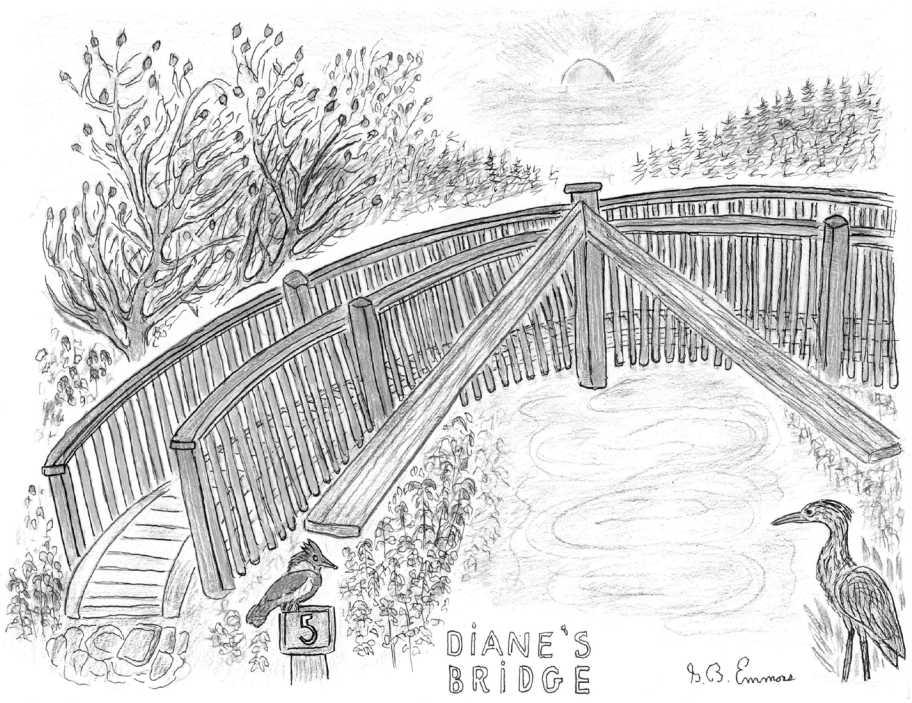
Diane's Trail Revisited



With the season of falling leaves and the month of November 2009 ended, the Algonquian full moon of the beaver has come and gone no less than ten times since the April 1999 issue of the *Monterey News* featured my article on Diane's Trail at Gould Farm, with my drawing of Diane's Bridge. Even more nostalgic, on the adjacent page in that issue was "A Wildlife Survey" by the late David McAllester, reporting his sightings of snow geese, wood ducks, woodcock, coltsfoot, and of course beavers.

As the saying goes, "An Apple Does Not Fall Far From The Tree," so it is significant that David's daughter, Bonner, is the author and illustrator of the Diane's Trail self-guided nature walk and wildlife brochure, available at the trailhead kiosk, which leads visitors through 28 numbered stations. Now, in addition to the twelve small bridges over the wetlands along the one-and-one-half-mile circuit, there is an entirely new main bridge just a stone's throw from the confluence of Rawson Brook and the Konkapot River.

The new bridge, designed by local resident Jonathan Greene, is the hallmark of the trail, and unlike the right-angle construction of the previous structure, it is the shape of a flowing natural wood arc that elevates the traveler above the waters and woodland and, not unlike the yellow brick road in *The Wizard Of Oz*, leads to an almost fantasy land of environmental wonder. Bridges hold a special literary meaning for me as a reader and somewhat creative writer, going back to my earliest impressions.

As a freshman in college, American Literature, English A, was a required course, which included reading Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge Of San Luis Rey*. Sitting next to me was a future best-selling author, Charles B. Flood, who became friends with Wilder, the visiting professor of literature. Two years after graduation, Flood published his first book, entitled *Love is a Bridge*. Wilder was fascinated by exploring the cosmic dimensions of human experience, and his writing inspired many others, including myself.

In the same vein, Diane Rausch, whose life the trail and bridge memorialize, was a nurse and healer at Gould Farm who paid close attention to life's and nature's smallest details. Her bridge might be said to link the journey from the past into the future, just as love bridges the cosmic dimensions of human experience between heaven and earth.

— George B. Emmons

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Young Professional

"Hello Ms. Dunlop." I'm sorry, did that person really just write that to me? Somehow, the designation of Ms. as opposed to Miss is not really sinking in. Considering that I am out in the world, speaking at conferences, and attached to my "crackberry," it seems to be an appropriate title. Honestly though, on an emotional level it feels weird. Thankfully, I have not been addressed as such in person; it is still happening only in emails. Yet, it is inevitable. I will stand up, smile, shake hands, and say that I'm so glad to meet them, while wondering inside if I am really me. When I stopped for coffee at the store and mentioned this to Kenn, he found it rather curious that I was so uncomfortable with the idea. I realized later that this is probably because my life path often takes me to places and situations just outside my comfort zone, before I am fully ready. That is how truly fortunate I am, and it is a new way to measure my own progress. If I am not in a mild state of discomfort, perhaps there is a chance that I am playing it safe, maybe too safe.

Being a young professional in DC is a gradual process; first it was adjusting to the new living setup, the commute, cooking, and getting down to business at work. It is a busy city, filled with ambitious young people, and in order to survive you cannot just tread water; in the long run, you have to actually swim. You need to be able to get somewhere. Although Middlebury groomed me to actually do this, it was far easier to imagine while I was up in Vermont than in the city. I know a lot of people who know people, and in terms of ambition you do have to put your best foot forward and go with the flow. At the same time, there is something oddly fake about this whole networking world I exist in and the crowd I ultimately run with. It is a challenge to get past the initial standardized "meet n' greet," but one that I am slowly rising to tackle.

When I was in London, it took me several months to go with the flow, and the lessons continue to serve me well. I know this is a theme I brought up in an earlier column, but I am consistently shocked by how similar the transition is—at least in a few notable ways. You cannot rush feeling comfortable, but you can embrace each step and plan the next one for the minute you are ready to take it. I went back to Middlebury for homecoming at the end of October, and it was absolutely wonderful. I miss my friends up there a great deal, but I know that I do not belong there anymore. There is something distinctly right about that feeling. Needless to say, it is a community of mentors, professors, and friends that I am incredibly blessed to have, and I will never lose that.

I have a friend at Middlebury that I've known my whole life, and as we were standing in the line for my Sunday omelet (I really miss those), she made some comment like "Time is of the essence." I knew exactly what she meant, but I had to respond honestly, "Yeah, I guess I really don't think like that as much anymore." She clearly thought I'd lost my marbles; fair enough, that is who I was up until this summer. Something changed when I stopped living for four or five deadlines at once, something fundamentally shifted on my Seattle vacation, as I went "cold turkey" on all those due dates. Even now in my job, I have almost no concrete deadlines, at least compared to what the last eight years demanded of me.

Shortly after my trip to Vermont, I went to talk with a group of Roosevelt students at Mount Holyoke about opportunities available to them through the organization, and some fundamentals about writing a good piece of public policy. The day after that I went down to a regional retreat in New Haven at the Yale campus. Eighty students gathered together to learn about running a Roosevelt chapter on their campuses, get an in-depth look at the public policy writing process, and plan subregional policy projects. I was the representative from the national DC office, and it was quite frankly—awesome.

The job is treating me well. The routine is comforting, and the promises for the future are ever present. I am not entirely stress free, and I am frequently exhausted by the end of the week, but it all disappears over the weekend. I am no longer perpetually tired, and for the first time in eight years, I am not afraid of feeling tired because I know I do not have to wait until Christmas or summer vacation to feel truly rested. While I see graduate school in my future, the present remains ideal for the person I am now, and the person I strive to become.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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It Was a Boy

It is often said in jest that doctors bury their mistakes. In fact, most doctors will tell you they remember their disasters far longer than their successes. I once had the experience of having a patient remind me that I had done an emergency, life-saving operation on her several years earlier, and having to fake my recollection of the event so as not to hurt her feelings. On the other hand, there are permanent notches in my temporal lobe for every bad outcome in my career.

Perhaps the deepest scar comes from the case of Sheila, a pregnant patient who had gone past her expected date of delivery. When calculating an EDC (expected date of confinement, or "due date"), the formula is nine months and seven days from the last menstrual period, or counting back three months and adding seven days. With either calculation it's two hundred and eighty days, or forty weeks.

If it were that simple there'd be no problem. However, menstrual cycles and ovulation are often erratic, and nature can also interject other variations, such as premature or postmature labor. In the case of postmaturity, most expectant mothers are unhappy about going past their due date because they are both physically uncomfortable and anxious for the baby to appear. But the medical problem with postmaturity is far more serious than inconvenience or discomfort. The placenta, which transfers blood and oxygen to the baby, has a limited life span. After forty-two weeks it degrades rapidly, placing the baby's life at risk.

In Sheila's case, she was seventeen days overdue. When we reviewed her history she stated that her menstrual cycles were always regular and predictable, and that she was confident about the date of her last period and when she had conceived this pregnancy. Also, her previous two pregnancies did not go past her due date, so this was unusual for her. The situation could not be ignored. We were dealing with a postmature pregnancy, and the baby was at potential risk of oxygen deprivation during labor or, worse, sudden death even before labor began.

A pelvic examination revealed that her cervix was long, thick, and closed. Induction of labor under these circumstances could take many hours, or even days. Plus, complications came with the territory, infection and fetal distress among them. As an alternative to induction, I could have recommended getting around the labor process by going straight to a cesarean section, but this involved added risk to the mother and could not be justified unless it could be proven that the baby was in imminent jeopardy.

I needed some indication of fetal status. At that time neither fetal monitoring nor ultrasound had been introduced as testing methods. The accepted protocol was amniocentesis, inserting a long needle through the mother's abdomen to draw a sample of amniotic fluid from the pregnant uterus. If the fluid was clear, the recommendation was to wait a few days and reassess. Should it be dark, however, that would indicate the need to push for urgent delivery.

When I described this procedure to her, Sheila recoiled in her chair. "A needle in my abdomen? That's going to hurt, right? And what if you hit the baby?"

I assured her that I would use novocaine in her skin, that any discomfort would typically last only a minute or two, and that it was important to determine whether the baby was in trouble. We discussed possible complications as well. I told her that inserting a needle into the uterus could cause serious problems, such as infection, bleeding, and seriously harming the baby. On the other hand, we had to weigh those factors against the potential consequences of allowing the pregnancy to continue. We spent a long time comparing the risks and benefits of these two options. I told her that I couldn't give her a guarantee, but that I had performed the procedure many times and never had a complication. Despite her misgivings, she agreed.

The procedure took less than a minute and the fluid was clear. This was good news. I reassured Sheila and asked her

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to return in forty-eight hours for further evaluation.

To my alarm, she returned the next day, frozen faced, to report that she had not felt the baby move since awakening that morning. I listened for a heartbeat but heard nothing. I observed her abdomen for signs of fetal movement. There were none, no signs of life. After a colleague concurred, I ordered an x-ray, which confirmed fetal death. With a heavy heart I reported this result to Sheila and her husband.

Both of them broke down and were inconsolable. Although they were barely able to listen I tried to explain what might have happened, that there could have been a complication from the amniocentesis, or that the baby died from placental failure due to postmaturity. There was also the possibility of a cord accident, in which the umbilical cord knots itself and cuts off blood supply to the baby. We would know only after the delivery.

I induced her that same day. Despite her unfavorable cervix, she responded quickly and delivered within just a few hours. The baby was a boy, but as expected he was stillborn. Examination revealed no skin deterioration, indicating that he had been dead for less than 24 hours. I inspected his entire body carefully. There were no needle marks of any kind, nor were there signs of trauma to the placenta or umbilical cord, although the placenta did show significant signs of aging. These findings were confirmed by a pathologist at autopsy. By process of elimination I had to conclude that the cause of death was postmaturity, despite the clear amniotic fluid obtained just a day before. A hospital review board agreed.

Sheila was understandably too distraught for explanations, but her husband was in control of his emotions at this point and wanted to hear everything in detail. As I spelled out my reasoning he listened thoughtfully, asking appropriate questions while attempting to remain calm. Then his body tensed and his voice began to shake. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

"I hear you," he said, leaning forward in his chair and obviously struggling to maintain control, "but I keep thinking that the baby was fine until yesterday when you inserted that needle."

I wanted to tell him I understood, that the amniocentesis was the first thing I considered as a possible cause, but instead I simply nodded in sympathy and waited for him to continue. He lowered his head for a long moment, then looked at me with a world of pain on his face.

"I've talked to God about this," he said haltingly. "I know you did what you thought was right, so I'm trying not to be angry … and I'm also trying to count my blessings because we have two healthy girls at home …" Again he stopped to compose himself. "But I can't help it," he continued. "It hurts. And it hurts even more, knowing ..." he paused, tearful and choking on his words, and finished in a hoarse, barely audible whisper ... "*it was a boy*."

The reader will undoubtedly want to know about the legal repercussions of this event. There were none, not even an inquiry. But it would be a mistake to conclude that I came out of this experience unscathed. My sentence was lifelong, and twofold: first, never knowing for sure whether I had caused the baby's death; and, far worse, the picture of that father's face as he wept over the loss of his only son.

— David Shifrin

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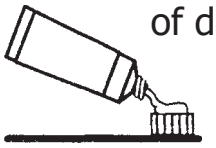

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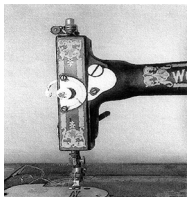

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Dog Rescues Dog

On a Monday in early November, Dave St Laurent and Donna Gamble's ten-month-old tracking dog in training had the opportunity to actually track and find a lost dog. Ashley, a bloodhound-Labrador mix was training in Monterey with her tracking club when a worried neighbor approached the group and asked for help—her standard poodle had been missing for almost an hour, and her owner was frantically looking for her.

After one of the experienced tracking dogs failed to pick up the missing dog's scent, Ashley gave it a go. No one expected what happened next—Ashley put her head down, pulled into her tracking harness and lead her owner down a hill across a road and through a field, right up to the lost dog!

What makes this rescue so unusual is Ashley's ability, as a novice dog, not only to discern the right scent, but then to follow it without any loss of the scent trail right to where the panicky dog was waiting and hoping someone would find her.

Ashley, a rescue herself, made both of her adoptive parents very proud and will obviously have a stellar career as a talented tracking dog.

— Nora Hayes
Tracking Coach (and also very proud)

ॐ

Sustainable Food Documentary in Sheffield

Fresh, the movie, will have five screenings over three days at the Stagecoach Tavern in Sheffield: Friday, Dec. 4, at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, at 5:30 and again at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Dinner as well as film reservations are encouraged, as seating is limited. For reservations and more information, call 413-229-8585. *Fresh* is being brought to you by Slow Food of Western Massachusetts, with sponsorship from the Stagecoach Tavern, the Berkshire Co-op, The Nutrition Center, and Moon in the Pond Farm.

Fresh, like most documentary films, has a message for all of us. It's about the need for sustainable food. But the message in *Fresh* is positive, empowering, and, well, fresh! Some of the characters you'll meet will be familiar to you from Michael Pollan's book *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, like Joel Salatin, the man who moved his family to a worn-out farmstead in Virginia and turned it into Polyface, Inc., America's premier nonindustrial food production oasis. His dream is to inspire multitudes of such farms across the country. Other faces of *Fresh* include a grocery store owner, David Ball, who stocks his aisles only with locally produced food.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support makes it possible for us to continue publishing in these tough times. Thanks to you, the *Monterey News* shall continue.

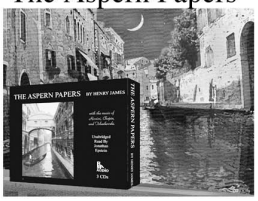
Berkshire Hatchery Foundation
Patricia Salomon
Toby Frank
Ruth Green
Eve LaBelle
Rudy Gero
Ellen & Don Coburn
Alyssa Gelbard

The producer and director of *Fresh*, Ana Sophia Joanes, has come up with a unique model of distributing her film. In fact, the distribution process mirrors the film's message. Her website urges community-based showings of the film in order to promote follow-up discussion and prompt action for change. *Fresh* will not be released to theaters until spring 2010.

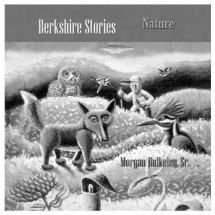
Audio for the Refined Ear

Berkshire Media Artists

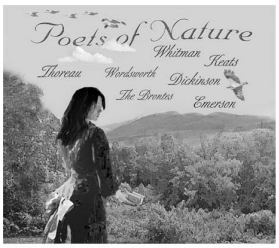
The Aspern Papers



Berkshire Stories

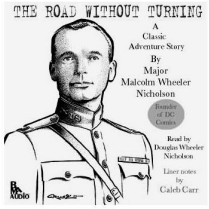


Poets of Nature



The Beejum Book

The Birth of Pulp



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Remembering Fr. Frederick Heberle

Father Frederick L. Heberle, 79, died November 10, 2009, at home.

Born in Holyoke on February 23, 1930, son of Frederick Thomas Heberle and Loretta B. Sourdiffe Heberle, he attended Blessed Sacrament School, Holyoke, and was a graduate of Sacred Heart High School, Holyoke. Fr. Heberle earned his classics degree at St. Paul's Abbey, Newton, N. J., his degree in philosophy at Seminaire de Philosophie, Montreal, Canada, his degree in theology at St. Mary's Seminar, Baltimore, Md. He was ordained in 1956.

His first assignment was Our Lady of Hope, Springfield, as an Associate from 1956–1968. He was in charge of the Holy Name Society, Altar Boys, Boy Scouts, and CCD Program of the Parish. Later, he was Deanery Director for the Springfield area. He was administrator of the All Saints in Ware for three months in 1968. He then went to St. Thomas the Apostle, Palmer, 1968–1971, and then to Sacred Heart Parish, Pittsfield, from 1971–1976; he served as Pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Sheffield, which included Our Lady of the Hills chapel in Monterey, from 1976-2001.

He served as Secretary of Priests for two terms and was a delegate for the National Convention of the Priests Senate; a member of Knights of Columbus, Council #4044, Chicopee; and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Sheffield for 25 years. He was director of the Sheffield Hockey Team for many years.

He was predeceased by his sister, June Heberle Gelinas, in September 2002 and her husband, Bernard L. Gelinas, in November 2004.

He leaves a nephew, Bernie Gelinas, and his wife, Michele Theriault Gelinas; a niece, Rosemarie Gelinas McLaughlin, and her husband, Michael McLaughlin; and several grandnieces and grandnephews.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Seminarian Education Fund, Office of Vocation, 65 Elliot St., Springfield, MA 01105.

ॐ

Remembering Roma Foreman

Rose (Roma) Foreman, 99, of Gould Farm in Monterey, died quietly Saturday morning, November 14, at home in her room in Main House.

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, on March 29, 1910, daughter of Monish and Fagi Foreman, she moved with her siblings to New York City while a young girl. She came to Gould Farm in 1930, earned her high school diploma, and worked as a bookkeeper for Gould Farm until her retirement in 1999. Bookkeeping was her job, but she was a friend to every community member, a teacher, mentor, caretaker, and keeper of the traditions. She led social events through the years, dancing, singing, games, hikes, and picnics. She lived for the on-going vitality of the Gould Farm community, making jam, pinching pennies, sharing graham crackers, chocolate, and riddles with the children, and giving instructions on how to behave. She maintained the practice of putting out the napkin rings to mark each one's place at dinner. She could be found playing Pick (noncompetitive scrabble) every evening in the dining room until two weeks before her death. Roma was an icon, the last community member to have known Agnes Gould.

Roma was predeceased by two sisters, Dorothy Foreman and Shirley Lehrer, and two brothers, Michael Foreman and Dr. Harry Foreman. She leaves two nephews, Matthew Foreman (and Dorothy Sherling), Mark (and Elsa) Lehrer; one niece, Pamela Foreman (and Jim Miller); and grandnieces and grandnephews. She leaves generations of Gould Farmers, from one to ninety years old, who have been touched individually by her care, her courage, her example, and her uniqueness. What a large, loving family she gathered around her.

A memorial service will be held in celebration of her 100th birthday in the spring at Gould Farm. In lieu of flowers, a gift in her memory may be made to Gould Farm, whose natural beauty and wild flora were a constant source of delight to Roma. Address to Sally Evans, Director of Development, P.O. Box 157, Monterey, MA 01245.

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Thanks to Monterey Firemen

To the Editor:

The fire company's response to my 911 call the other night was another demonstration of why Monterey is such a great community to live in.

Del, Mark, Maynard, and the other firefighters all helped to calm my anxiety, making me feel that I was in good hands.

It is reassuring to know that professional emergency help is close at hand.

— Martin Cherneff

Ellerie Jewelry Open House

Stop by the Monterey General Store between 2 and 5 p.m. on December 13 for an Ellerie Jewelry Design Open House. Designs by Monterey resident Ellen Farris will be available for sale. Ellen creates textured and colorful pieces in precious metals and lampwork glass. You can also view or purchase some items on her website at www.elleriedesigns.com.

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Ian McAlister

Rosemary McAlister (center) with our new neighbors, Weyessa (l) and Masho.

Thank You, Neighbors

To the Citizens of Monterey (7 beyond):

Our family would like to express an "official thank you" to our fellow town folk for all your help, support, and donations for our Ethiopian Honey Bread and soap sales from Labor Day until Columbus Day. Through the generosity of Kenn letting us set up our table outside the Monterey General Store, as well as the Berkshire Coop allowing us to set up out there, a generous donation from the Great Barrington Rotary Club and countless others, we were able to raise enough funds so that our daughter Masho and I could return to Ethiopia October 29–November 7 to pick up her brother, Weyessa. It was a perfect reunion of old and new family. Especially at this time of Thanksgiving, we reflect on how grateful we are for the citizens of Monterey to help bring Weyessa home to start his new life.

Though I'm happy to have the sales and trip behind me, admittedly, I miss all the wonderful stories I heard from so many of you about your journeys in life . . . your trips, your African connections, your children . . . etc. I feel as though I could write a book of essays about the people I met through the passage of time from Labor Day to Columbus Day.

Blessings and many thanks again to you all,

— Rosemary McAlister
for the entire McAlister Family

Calendar

Every Monday (exc. Dec. 28): Select Board meeting, 4 p.m., Town Hall.

Every Friday in December: Music at Monterey General Store, 7–9 p.m. See ad with schedule, p. 10.

Saturday, December 5:

Local artists show their work at Meetinghouse and studios throughout Monterey. See p. 5.

Sandisfield Historical Society Christmas Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sandisfield Firehouse #2, Route 57. Christmas Gifts/items, crafts, tag sale, baked goods, food raffles, and more. Free. For Information, call Norton Fletcher, 258-4520.

Christmas Extravaganza Variety Show, 7 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center. $5, children free. See p. 10.

Thursday, December 10:

Financial Seminar with Terry Webb, 7 p.m., Monterey General Store. Free, see p. 15.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 p.m.

Saturday, December 12: Denise Andrus will present a Christmas story and craft for children, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Sunday, December 13: Community hayride and Christmas party, 1:30 p.m., Meetinghouse. See p. 11.

Tuesday, December 15: Free Health Screening, Community Health Program, 10 a.m.–noon, Town Hall.

Wednesday, December 16: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Presentation by Monterey Preservation Land Trust. See p. 6.

Thursday, December 24: Community Christmas Eve Service, Monterey Church, 7 p.m. See p. 10.

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day, Town Hall closed.

Saturday, December 26: Free concert with local musicians, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Sponsored by General Store; see ad p. 10.

Thursday, December 30: Full moon on New Year's Eve.

Friday, January 1: Happy New Year! Town Hall closed.

New Email Address for *Monterey News*

Please note the new email address for the *News*: montereynews9@gmail.com

The Observer
October 26–November 25

High temp. (11/10)	66°
Low temp. (11/7)	23°
Avg. high temp.	51.6°
Avg. low temp.	33.8°
Avg. temp.	42.7°
Total precipitation	3.22 in.
Snowfall	0.2 in.

Precipitation occurred on 15 days.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

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Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Contributions from local and guest artists this month: David Paul Bacharach, p. 4; Maureen Banner, pp. 13, 20; George Emmons, p. 16; Bonner McAllester, p. 14; Glynis Oliver, p. 12.

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